



HEALTHNET OF ROCK COUNTY INC

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March 4, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate Committee of Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Senators Grassley and Wyden:

On behalf of HealthNet of Rock County, Inc. and the patients that we serve daily, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on *the Price of Sovaldi and its Impact on the US Health Care System Report*.

HealthNet of Rock County, Inc. is a free clinic located in Janesville, WI that provides medical, dental, and vision services to low-income and uninsured residents of our county. Last year, our clinic provided over 3,000 free services to the public and dispensed \$1.5 million of medications to patients who could otherwise not afford them.

While HealthNet of Rock County, Inc. wants the safest, most effective, and cutting edge drug therapies available for our patients and all patients, it cannot be ignored that sole sourced medication can, and many times does, cause limited and unaffordable treatment options for low-income and medically underserved patients. Furthermore, we receive state and

Access to affordable medication is critical for individuals to combat diagnosed diseases. The high costs of many medications make it almost impossible for the medically underserved and working poor to afford and remain compliant with necessary medication treatment therapies. While clinics utilize Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs), and receive donated medication through supply chain partners, there are many medications, especially the most cutting edge sole sourced medications, that remain unavailable to our clinics and patients.

As the Committee reviews *the Sovaldi Report*, HealthNet of Rock County, inc. strongly encourages the broader examination of medication affordability and accessibility for all generic, branded, and sole sourced medications. Affordable medication therapies are critical for the health and wellness of not only our patients, but also the country as a whole, and we stand ready to work with the members of the Committee to address this important issue.

HealthNet of Rock County Inc is a tax exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

I am available, at any time, to speak or meet with members of the Committee or staff and I may be reached by phone at 608-314-1921, or by executive-director@healthnet-rock.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and we look forward to working with you to address affordability and accessibility of medication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Hedges", followed by three dots.

Ian Hedges
Executive Director